

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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TO USICA WASHDC
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USICA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL ON ICA LIBRARY CLOSINGS

1. FOLLOWPYG IS TRANSLATION FULL TEXT EDITORIAL ON
SCHEDULED ICA TAICHUNG/TAINAN CLOSINGS WHICH APPEARED
MAY 16 IN LEADING UNITED DAILY NEWS (LIEN HO PAO;
600,000):

2. (BEGIN TEXT) SINCE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED
CLOSING OF TAICHUNG AND TAINAN LIBRARIES ON JULY 15, WE
HAVE READ IN PAPERS PROTESTS OF AN AMERICAN PROFESSOR OF
CHENGKUNG UNIVERSITY POINTING OUT THAT THE ACTION WAS NOT
PURELY DUE TO BUDGETARY MOTIVATIONS AS OFFICIALLY
ANNOUNCED AND THAT THE RESULTANT LACK OF READING
FACILITIES WILL BE SERIOUS. HE HOPES SYMPATHETIC CHINESE
WILL WRITE PROTEST LETTERS TO AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AND
AMERICANS WILL WRITE TO THEIR SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN TO
PROTEST ACTION. THEN, WE READ IN PAPERS PROTEST LETTER
OF KIRK HENDERSON OF AMERICAN LEGION IN TAIPEI TO ROBERT
SMITH, NATIONAL COMMANDER OF LEGION, SUGGESTING STRONG
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PROTEST IF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTINUES GRADUAL WITH-
DRAWAL OF U.S. FACILITIES FROM ROC WITHOUT CONSENT OF
AMERICAN PEOPLE.

3. WE EXTOL AND APPRECIATE FAIR CRY OF THE TWO AMERICAN
FRIENDS. WE WOULD LIKE, HEREBY, EXPRESS OUR OWN OPINIONS
AND FEELING TOWARDS EVENT. AT TIME OF FERVENT

EXPECTATIONS OVER INAUGURATION OF NEW PRESIDENT, NEW CABINET, AND A NEW PAGE OF OUR HISTORY, WE DO NOT HAVE TOO MUCH TIME TO BOTHER WITH CLOSING OF TWO SMALL LIBRARIES, BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN WE DON'T HOLD OPPOSING VIEWS. WE THINK CLOSING IS MISTAKE. IT WILL HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON CULTURAL COMMUNICATION, MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, AND TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL REEXAMINE AND MAKE NEW DECISIONS TO CONTINUE, EVEN TO EXPAND, FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE LIBRARIES, BEFORE THEIR (SCHEDULED) CLOSING TWO MONTHS FROM NOW.

4. AS MATTER FACT, THERE IS NO REASON FOR US BELIEVE CLOSING IS DUE ECONOMIC MEASURES. BUDGET OF SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS IS BUT DROP IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT'S EXPENDITURES. IF IT IS NECESSARY, CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS CAN BE SOLICITED FROM THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN AMERICAN CULTURE AND HISTORY TO KEEP THEM GOING. AS GRADUALLY DISCLOSED IN PAPERS AND IN GRADUAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS, THERE ARE POLITICAL FACTORS INVOLVED AND THE SPECIAL DIRECTIVE CAME FROM WASHINGTON. DOES IT MEAN OVERTURE TO BRZEZINSKI'S VISIT TO PEKING? DOES IT MEAN STEP FORWARD IN FULFILLING THE SO-CALLED SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE? IF SO, WE DOUBT THIS MINUTE GESTURE WILL BE HELPFUL TO BRZEZINSKI'S VISIT; WE DOUBT EVEN MORE HUA AND TENG WILL, WITH THEIR "DISCERNING EYES" AND "FINE UNCLASSIFIED

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APPRECIATION," TAKE THIS GESTURE AS MANIFESTATION OF SINCERITY OF U.S. GOVERNMENT IN FULFILLING SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. DID COMMUNIQUE EVER INCLUDE REQUEST FOR CLOSING DOWN AMERICAN CULTURAL COMMUNICATION FACILITIES IN ROC? COULD IT BE THAT TO PURSUE NORMALIZATION U.S. NO LONGER NEEDS CHINESE PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THEIR CULTURE? COULD IT BE THAT TO PURSUE NORMALIZATION U.S. GOVERNMENT IS WILLING DEEPEN SEPARATION FROM CHINESE PEOPLE?

5. AMERICA PARTICIPATED IN TWO WORLD WARS AND ALWAYS STOOD ON RIGHT SIDE. AFTER WARS WERE OVER, IT HELPED WITH ALL ITS RESOURCES DEFEATED NATIONS TO RECOVER. BASED ON HUMANITARIAN OUTLOOK, U.S. ALSO HELPED DEMOCRATIC NATIONS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ACHIEVE SELF-RELIANCE. ALTHOUGH U.S. COULD NOT OBTAIN APPROVAL AND SUPPORT OF EACH AND EVERY NATION, HISTORY WILL PASS ITS JUST JUDGEMENT. AFTER WORLD WAR TWO MANY COUNTRIES RECEIVED AMERICAN AID, BUT AT THE SAME TIME FORMED DEEP ANTI-AMERICAN FEELINGS. ROC PUT AMERICAN AID TO GOOD USE AND HAS BEEN GOOD FRIEND EVER SINCE. THIS IS DUE TO TRADITIONAL HONESTY AND SINCERITY OF CHINESE CULTURE, BUT CONTRIBUTION FROM SUCH QUARTERS AS INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AGENCY WAS ALSO

CONSIDERABLE. NOW, JUST AT TIME OF ENDANGERMENT BY
COMMUNIST UNITED FRONT AND INTERNATIONAL APPEASEMENT,
AT TIME OF OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW BEGINNING, ROC IS DIS-
APPOINTED AND FRUSTRATED BY U.S.
TRADITIONALLY CALLS FOR JUSTICE AND HUMAN RITGJUUH
FGTEEOKWQUST TELL OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS THAT WE ARE SADDENED AND
BEWILDERED. CHINESE CULTURE VALUES "HELP FOR THE NEEDY"
AND DESPISES "DROPPING STONES ON A MAN WHO FALLS INTO A
WELL." DROPPING OF SMALL STONE BY (SCHEDULING) CLOSING
OF TWO LIBRARIES ON EVE OF BRZEZINSKI'S VISIT TO PEKING
MAKES US DOUBTFUL OF AMERICAN CULTURAL VALUES. ALTHOUGH

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U.S. ALSO PURSUES PRACTICALITY IN ADDITION TO JUSTICE AND
HUMAN VALUES, CLOSING OF LIBRARIES CLEARLY WILL NOT BE
HELPFUL IN OBTAINING COMMUNIST PERMISSION TO OPEN SIMILAR
FACILITIES TO PROMOTE AMERICAN CULTURE AND VALUES. WHERE
THEN IS BENEFIT OF MEASURE?

6. WE SINCERELY HOPE AMERICAN FRIENDS AND ALLIES WILL
SHOW THEIR FRIENDLY ATTITUDE. AS A WESTERN PROVERB GOES,
"A FRIEND IN NEED, IS A FRIEND INDEED." AMERICANS SURELY
UNDERSTAND THIS DEEPLY. (END TEXT) AYERS

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